

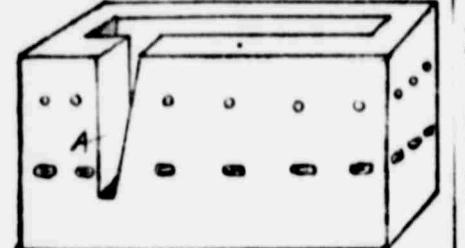
## THIS MORO FORT HARD TO WIN

**OUR DEFENCES OF THE NATION'S TERRITORIES.**

**Walls 12 Feet Thick Masked With Thorns Brush—Execution Done by June Flying Cannon—Pitsfalls and a Subway—Carried After a Stubborn Fight.**

**IN THE FIELD.** MINDANAO, P. I., May 18. Undoubtedly many men, engineers and the public in general will wonder why the Moro fort of Pandupatan of the Sultan of Bayan on the island of Mindanao defied the resistance it did to the American attack, which was made with the assistance of a field battery on May 2, 1902. The fort looked like any other Moro fort, but the Americans lost many men in trying to get into it.

Many forts, stockades and entrenched positions of the Moros had very promptly surrendered to our column in the march from the sea to the lake country in the



interior. There were many fortified places, because the entire lake region is divided up among Sultans and Datus, each with his following and fortification.

In fact about every house is a fort. There are trenches about it and stone walls and bamboo stockades. In each house there protected life a Datu and his immediate family and working force of slaves, who cultivate the lands and care for the stock. Every fortified place is supplied with one or more cannon, a few muskets and many houses have bamboo canons, spear, bows, &c.

I shall never forget the march from the sea to the lakes, some thirty-four miles, in which we overcame all opposition. Forts

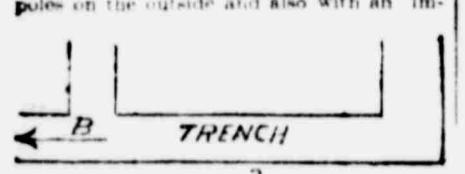


THE POOR MAN'S RED DEVIL.

were taken without much resistance and oftentimes without loss on either side.

Our first view of Fort Pandupatan occurred shortly after the taking of a large stockade in the Bayan district. The little fort, which was to cause us so much loss, looked much like any other Moro fort. In a general way the fort is a square inclosure. The walls are of stone, earth and bamboo and about twelve feet thick at the base. They are some fourteen feet high.

These walls are covered with bamboo poles on the outside and also with an im-

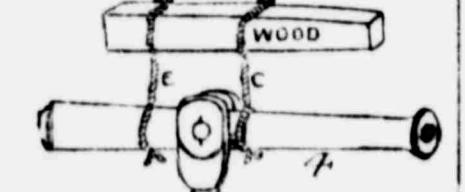


mense entanglement of thorny brush both on the sides and the top. This brush made the fort look easy to take, as the stone walls did not show.

The walls of stone and loose earth neatly and tightly held and packed have many portholes and the fighting Moros seemed to have a canon or a rifle at every port-hole and their shooting proved to be effective.

The Moro engineers had also constructed two trenches about the fort of considerable depth. One trench was crowded with desperate Moros who had taken the oath of their lives to die facing the enemy. I am sure that every Moro had in that trench kept his oath.

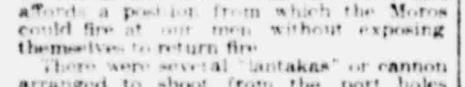
They fought out, officers and enlisted men on the edge of the trenches, in the



trenches and everywhere. It was shot, cut into, thrown rocks, and fell for fully thirty minutes. By that time the Moros in the trenches were dead, but our loss was heavy. Three or four of our officers were wounded and some twenty-five of our soldiers were killed and wounded.

One was severely "takata," or cannon arranged to shoot from the port-holes and another and the third, the middle of the fort is a bamboo shack. The narrow entrance to the fort was protected by heavy wooden barred doors during the fight.

The designs of most Moro forts take the precaution to make a passage by which the garrison can retreat. In this case the width of retreat seemed to be through an underground passage from



WATERMELON PLUGGING.

**TIME-HONORED METHOD OF LETTING THE COTTON KNOT WHAT HE IS GETTING.**

A time-honored way of revealing to a customer the quality and the degree of ripeness of a watermelon is by plugging it. Plugging consists in cutting around, with steel knife thrusts, a section of the melon, perhaps an inch square, which then lifted out.

Whether the melon is sold or not this plug is then put back, keeping the surface of the melon unbroken. If this particular melon is not sold the plug can be removed from it to show the quality of it to successive customers.

The vendor with a wagonload of watermelons uses another method. He divides one melon, or perhaps two, into halves, which are striking and attractive samples. The wholesale dealer, also, with mountain-maybe mountain ranges of watermelons about his place of business in the season, shows what the fruit is by plucking on the vine, perhaps a greenish stalk.

But sometimes in the wholesale fruit district watermelons are sampled by plugging on a greenish scale. Example: they will cut out of a watermelon a great triangular-shaped plug as large as the watermelon itself, and lift it out, and keep it, and this gives not only an exact general interior view of the watermelon but showing it also in various aspects of cross section. Indeed while it may be less specific than some, there is perhaps no method of watermelon sampling more comprehensive in its revelation than that of the great triangular plug.

the fort to see sake. There was also a passage which led from the main trench. During the first part of the fight I remember that a few Moro soldiers escaped through this trench to the open field and then ran to the brush.

The cannon of the Moro fort consisted chiefly of bronze lantaks with a bore of about an inch and a half. These cannon

## THRESHING OUT IN KANSAS.

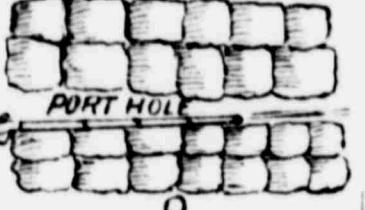
**THE NEW METHOD OF HANDLING WHEAT IN THE WEST.**

**BUTTERIS DRAWN BY ENGINES THAT THRESH \$10,000 BUSHELS A SEASON—FARM WORK MADE EASIER—THE COOK SHANTY AND ITS MISTRESS—COOPERATIVE ELEVATORS.**

NORTON, Kan., July 18.—Threshing has begun. One may stand on a knoll and count the smoke of a dozen threshing engines within the rim of the horizon. It is the time of money making, for even the mint that coins real gold scarcely turns out the counters of trade faster than the modern threshing machine run by a power-ful traction engine.

"What do you think you will be able to do this season?" was asked of the good-natured manager of a threshing outfit that followed town the other day.

"Oh, guess we'll make about \$10,000 bushels,



more if we have good luck. Want to pay for it?"

That is a fair season's run, 10,000 bushels.

The threshing comes to maintain the aim by holding the canon in its proper alignment during the discharge of the gun.

When the canon was suspended by ropes the gunners had to maintain the aim by holding the canon in its proper alignment during the discharge of the gun.

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